

Message Text

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47

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 3097

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CZ

SUBJECT: KSC CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: PRAGUE 2973 AND 2974

1. AS WE REPORTED REFTEL, LACK OF HARD NEWS AVAILABLE CONCERNING RECENT CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM INDICATED THAT SUBJECT OF SOME IMPORTANCE AND CONTROVERSY WAS DISCUSSED, PROBABLY HAVING TO DO WITH EVENTS OF 1968. RECENT SIMULTANEOUS PUBLICATION BY RUDE PRAVO AND PRAVDA (BRATISLAVL), KSC AND KSS PARTY ORGANS RESPECTIVELY, OF LONG EDITORIALS ENTITLED "PROVEN LESSONS TO OUR PARTY AND SOCIETY" TEND TO SUBSTANTIATE THIS CONCLUSION.

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2. ALTHOUGH OSTENSIBLY PRINTED TO COMMEMORATE FOURTH

ANNIVERSARY OF PUBLICATION OF "LESSONS FROM THE CRISIS DEVELOPMENT IN THE PARTY AND SOCIETY AFTER THE FOURTEENTH PARTY CONGRESS," ARTICLE NEVERTHELESS LAYS SUFFICIENT EMPHASIS ON REAFFIRMATION OF THAT DOCUMENT BY CC PLENUM TO INDICATE IT WAS INDEED A MAJOR TOPIC.

3. MAJOR POINTS OF THE ARTICLE WERE A REVIEW OF THE EVENTS OF 1968, AND A REAFFIRMATION THAT THE CRISIS WAS INDEED REAL AND, EXCEPT FOR THE TIMELY INTERVENTION OF THE USSR, WOULD HAVE LED TO A BLOODY SLAUGHTER SIMILAR TO THE COUNTER-REVOLUTION IN CHILE; A STROND CONDEMNATION OF DUBCEK AND HIS FOLLOWERS (SMRKOVSKY, KRIEGEL, AND SPECK ARE NAMED), WHO "MISINFORMED, MISLED, AND CRUDELY DECEIVED AND CHEATED" A LARGE PART OF THE POPULATION; AND A LAUDATORY SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE PARTY UNDER HUSAK IN SECURING THE NATION AND IN TREATING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, SOME OF WHICH RESULTED FROM 1968 AND SOME OF WHICH HAD ACCUMULATED DURING THE 1960'S.

4. THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT DUBCEK AND COMPANY "WERE MORALLY AND POLITICALLY DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VACILLATION OF MANY OF OUR HONEST PEOPLE." IT ALSO STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT SINCE THE FOURTEENTH CONGRESS, THE PARTY HAS FOLLOWED A "PRINCIPLED APPROACH" IN DEALING WITH MOST 1968 DEVIANTS AND HAS SUCCESSFULLY CONVINCED THEM OF THE ERRORS OF THEIR WAYS AND OF THE CORRECTNESS OF KSC POLICIES RATHER THAN "YIELDING TO OLD-FASHIONED MOODS AND OPINIONS" (AN ALTERNATIVE WHICH WE READ AS CLAPPING THEM IN JAIL).

5. NOTING THAT VOICES ARE STILL HEARD QUESTIONING WHETHER THE RESULTS OF THE CLEANSING OF THE PARTY SHOULD NOT BE REASSESSED, THE ARTICLE STATES THAT SUCH HOPES ARE IN VAIN. IT GOES ON TO NOTE THAT THE CC PLENUM UNANIMOUSLY STATED THAT THE POLICY OF THE FOURTEENTH CONGRESS REMAINED FULLY VALID AND SHOULD NOT BE CHANGED. THE ARTICLE WENT ON TO CITE THE CC PLENUM'S EMPHASIS THAT THE PARTY MUST CONTINUE TO TAKE A "DIFFERENTIATED APPROACH" TO THOSE WHO LOST THEIR PARTY MEMBERSHIP, BASED ON THE DEGREE OF THEIR OFFENSE AND THEIR ACTIVITIES SINCE IN BUILDING SOCIALISM.

6. WE READ THE EMPHASIS ON DUBCEK'S HAVING LED MANY
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CZECHOSLOVAKS UP THE GARDEN PATH IN 1968, AND ON THE POSSIBILITY OF SELECTIVE REHABILITATION FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN THE ERRORS OF THEIR WAYS, AS PERHAPS SIGNALLING A MORE LIBERAL APPROACH TO PARTY AND ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION IN WHICH SKILLED MANAGERS AND TECHNICIANS WHO LOST THEIR JOBS ON POLITICAL GROUNDS MIGHT BE RE-HIRED. ALTHOUGH SUCH CALLS FOR REHABILITATION OF THOSE WHO STRAYED IN 1968 BUT HAVE SINCE INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT THE PARTY HAVE BEEN HEARD

BEFORE, WE HAVE NOT NOTICED ANY REAL EFFORT TO PUT SUCH A POLICY INTO EFFECT. INDEED, THE ATMOSPHERE DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS HAS BEEN JUST THE OPPOSITE, DESPITE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC ILLS WHICH HAVE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THE NEED FOR REINTEGRATING THE DISCARDED EXPERTS AND TECHNICIANS. WHETHER THIS PRESENT RE-EMPHASIS OF THE PARTY'S STATED WILLINGNESS TO REHABILITATE SUCH INDIVIDUALS WILL SUFFICE TO ASSURE MANAGERS THAT THEY CAN IN FACT SEEK OUT AND HIRE SUCH TALENT IS QUESTIONABLE. BUT IT APPEARS THAT THE LEADERSHIP HAS DECIDED IT IS TIME TO TRY.
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